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claimed features (i.e. adhesive, fasteners and external depression):

37 CFR §1.83 Content of drawing.

(a) The drawing in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

Figure 5 has been revised to include a block representation (48) of an adhesive, fastener or external depression, means of fixing tubes well known in the art and disclosed in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Figures 3, 4 and 7 have been amended to address the objections of the Examiner regarding missing reference characters and reference characters identifying multiple items. The captions in Figures 8-9 have been deleted as unnecessary. The plots shown in Figures 8-9 are described in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants assert that the rejection of claims 2-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is moot, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vlahovic. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is well understood that in order for a claim to be anticipated by a prior art reference, each and every limitation of the claim must be disclosed by the cited reference.

Vlahovic discloses a receiving device for mounting on a vehicle frame member having a longitudinal portion with a generally rectangular cross-section. The frame portion includes internal

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partitions dividing the frame cross-section into square or rectangular longitudinal chambers. The receiving device includes a generally C-shaped portion for wrapping around the frame member, or a substantially enclosed portion, requiring the receiving device to be slid onto the longitudinal portion from one end.

Claim 1 requires a motor vehicle frame assembly including a tubular frame member for absorbing energy in the event of a collision and a structural member disposed in the tubular frame member, the structural member comprising a generally tubular body having an outer perimeter complimentary to an inner perimeter of the tubular frame member and disposed within the tubular frame member to locally increase the movement of inertia, and at least one rib disposed in the tubular body. Vlahovic does not disclose a structural member disposed in a tubular frame member of the motor vehicle frame assembly. Rather, Vlahovic discloses a component bracket adapted to slide onto or over a longitudinal vehicle frame member. The vehicle frame member itself has an internal partition dividing the frame cross-section into chambers.

In light of the foregoing amendments, however, claim 1 has been cancelled and the rejection of claim 1 is therefore considered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 requires that the frame assembly includes a joint and that the structural member be located in the tubular frame member at the joint. Vlahovic discloses no element of the receiving device that could be construed to be a joint that would anticipate the limitations of claim 2. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 over Vlahovic, and re-examination and reconsideration of claim 2, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and for the same reasons put forth with respect to the rejections of claims 1 and 2, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 3-16 is respectfully requested. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 3-16, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 2, is courteously solicited.

Claims 1 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Norlin. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Norlin discloses a cellular section for shock absorption, having a longitudinal rear support side and a longitudinal front impact side. Between the sides there is a framework of cells having their axes perpendicular to the support side.

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Norlin does not disclose a structural member having a generally tubular body with an outer perimeter complimentary to an inner perimeter of the tubular frame member of a motor vehicle frame assembly, as required by claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Claims 13-16, as amended, depend from claim 2, which contains all the limitations of cancelled claim 1. Therefore, for the same reasons set forth above for claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13-16, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Horiuchi et al. discloses a vehicle structural member built up of multiple semi-tubular cross-sections surrounding a central tubular member having a partition wall for strengthening the central tubular member.

Claim 1 having been cancelled, its rejection is considered moot and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Horiuchi et al. does not disclose a joint in the frame assembly, nor that a structural member is located in the tubular frame assembly at the joint, as required by claim 2, from which claims 4-5, as amended, depend. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-5, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vlahovic in view of the well known prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 12, as amended, depend from claim 2. Therefore, the rejection of these claims as being unpatentable over Vlahovic in view of the well known prior art, based on the rejection of claims 1 and 8 as being anticipated by Vlahovic, is moot. For the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 2, from which claims 9 and 12 now depend, either directly or indirectly, claims 9 and 12 are patentable over Vlahovic in view of the well known prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 12, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims, is courteously solicited.

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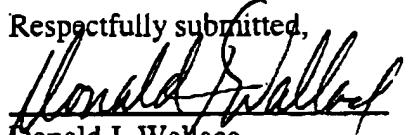
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Conclusion

From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims remaining in the application are allowable over the references of record, and reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously solicited. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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